meeting, would also be referred to the Standing Committee for their consideration and report to the Council.

10. The Standing Committee may, if necessary, invite experts and persons eminent in specific fields to have the benefit to their views while deliberating upon the related subjects.

11. After the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts. decentralization of resoruces, powers and responsibilities to Urban and Rural Panchayat Raj institutions have become very important. The Council recommends adequate devolution in this respect from the States to Local bodies.

12. Regional Development boards and other regional development arrangements within the State require to be fully strengthened wherever necessary and made operational with full delegation of financial and executive powers. The State Governments would be fully involved in making these arrangements and in the exercise of powers under article 271 of the Constitution.

Sick Textile Mills in the Country

577. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills alongwith names which have become sick at present in the country.

(b) the total number of workers in these mills; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to solve the problems being faced by these mills and workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) As on 31.10.96, 299 textile mills were registered with Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) the number of these workers is 3,75,084. A Statement showing the names of the mills, along with the number of workers is given as Annexure. [*See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 14*].

(c) Government has set up BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revivial of mills.

Deployment of Security Personnel for Miss World Contest at Bangalore

578. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of personnel from the Border Security Force, National Security Guards and Rapid Action Force that were deployed to ensure law and order during the Miss World Beauty Pageant recently organised by a private company at Bangalore;

(b) the total cost to the national exchequer on account of such deployment; and

(c) whether arrangements have been made to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) On the request of the Government of Karnataka, 5 coys of RAF, 2 Coys of Mahila CRPF and platioon strength of BSF were made available to Government of Karnataka in connection with arrangements for Miss World Beauty pageant. However, 2 -platoons strength of BSF has been withdrawn with effect from 13.11.96. The cost of deployment will depend upon the period of deployment and the charges will be recovered from the Government of Karnataka as per the prescribed rates.

Involvement of Foreign Intelligence Agencies in Extremist Activities

579. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the involvement of ISI and other foreign intelligence agencies to step up the extremist activities in the country